

**COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462
MINUTES, AUGUST 9, 2001**

Vice President O'Neill convened the special meeting of the Colonial Board of School Directors at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of Colonial Elementary School on August 9, 2001.

Board Members Present: Robert O'Neill, Robert Carroll, Gary Johnson, Stuart Kessler, Thomas Marchozzi, Jack Pinheiro and Thomas Yunker.

Board Members Absent: Hugh Lipshutz and Marc Orlow.

Also Attending: Dr. Vincent F. Cotter, Superintendent; R. Scott Klinger, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administrative Services and Personnel; Fred Shipman, Director of Pupil Services; James M. Bell, Director of Support Services/Board Secretary; Dave Sherman, Administrative Assistant for Community Relations; Joanne P. Frye; and Michelle Mowad.

Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order and lead those assembled in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Public Comments on the Agenda: None.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cotter outlined his recommendation for appointing Rosemary Montesana to the position of Supervisor of Student Support Service at a salary of \$77,167.00 and Cheryl Leask to the position of Supervisor of Special Education at a salary of \$68,500.00 at dates to be announced. He noted that Ms. Leask would be filling the vacancy created when Donna Drizin became Principal at Whitmarsh Elementary School. He also advised that Ms. Montesana would be filling a new position that was originally funded for half of the current school year but could now be funded for the full year using IDEA funds to make up the difference. Dr. Cotter reported that the Personnel Committee had reviewed and approved the appointments. He asked Mr. Shipman to provide additional information. Mr. Shipman commented on the increases in special education staffing over the past four years as student needs increased. He noted the need for additional supervision of staff and the need for more work in articulating and aligning the special education curriculum. Mr. Shipman explained how the titles for the two positions reflected the work that the individuals would be performing in light of their certifications and specialized skills. Dr. Cotter and Mr. Shipman responded to questions from board members about the expenditure of unallocated IDEA funds to support one of the positions and learned that administration and the Personnel Committee had felt that the planned expenditures represented the best application of available funding to meet district needs. They also provided background information on why the position was originally funded for only half the

year in order to manage current year costs. Mr. Kessler moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to approve the two appointments before the board. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Fact-Finder's Report: Mr. O'Neill reported that the district had received Dr. William E. Caldwell's Fact-Finding Report of 07/30/01. He noted that the Board and the CEA had ten days to accept or reject the report in its entirety and on an unqualified basis and to inform the PLRB and each other of their acceptance or rejection. Mr. O'Neill also advised that the report remained confidential during the ten-day consideration period and until it was officially released for publication by the Labor Board in the event of a rejection. Recognizing that the parties were not able to discuss the report at that time, Mr. Kessler moved and Mr. Yunker seconded a motion to reject the report without further discussion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. The motion was carried.

Mr. O'Neill recognized Mr. Pinheiro who would read a prepared statement. Prior to reading his statement, Mr. Pinheiro noted that, if approved, the fact finder's report would cost the district \$100,000,000.00 over four years. He also noted that Mr. Orlow and Dr. Lipshutz wanted to be present for the meeting but were away on prearranged family vacations. He indicated that both supported the Board's position of the report. Mr. Pinheiro also reported that Mr. O'Neill had a family member who would benefit from a new teacher's contract, was barred from participating in negotiations but was, under legal rulings, able to vote on a final contract. He further reported that the district's solicitor had rendered an opinion that, since the fact-finder's report could be the basis for a final contract, Mr. O'Neill could vote on the report and did. Mr. Pinheiro then read his statement on behalf of the Board. The statement is attached to these minutes as Attachment #1.

Board Announcements: Mr. Johnson reported that he would be seeking Board approval of a resolution governing the financing of the new roof at the Center for Technical Studies at the Work Session the following Monday evening. Mr. Pinheiro advised that the Board had met in executive session on the evening of 07/30/01 to review the fact finder's report.

Additional Public Comment: Ms. Mowad asked the Board about the status of day care programs in the event of teachers' strike. Dr. Cotter noted that the district had surveyed the community and had received 535 requests for childcare. He reported that the district was working on the details of providing childcare and would be conducting registrations during the last week in August.

Ms. Frye asked how parent's had been surveyed. Dr. Cotter indicated that information on the program had been part of a newsletter mailed to all district households and that the survey itself had gone out in a mailer and on the district's web-site. Ms. Frye reported that she had responded to the survey on the web-site

but had received no mailings from the district. Dr. Cotter indicated that the district would look into the problem with the mailings and correct it.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Orlow adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**James M. Bell
Board Secretary**